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TITLE : ANTIBACTERIAL FIBER AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain the subject fiber having a stable antibacterial property without deteriorating the physical properties of the fiber by forming on the fiber a coating layer comprising a crosslinked water-soluble polymer containing an antibacterial metal colloid.

CONSTITUTION: Fibers, e.g. PVA fibers, are impregnated and treated with a treating solution to coat the surfaces of the fibers with a metal particles colloid for providing the fibers with an excellent antibacterial performance, the treating solution being prepared by dissolving a water-soluble polymer, e.g. polymers containing  $\geq 50$ wt.% of PVA, in water, mixing the solution with a solution containing a metal colloid produced by adding a reducing agent (e.g. hydrazine hydrate) to the aqueous solution of a metal salt selected from the salts of tin, lead, copper, silver, etc., and further adding a crosslinking agent (e.g. glutaraldehyde) for the water-soluble polymer.

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